

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200959

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, MILI, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO STANDARDIZATION

REFS: (A) USNATO 4223; (B) STATE 176498

1. WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE REVIEWED THE COMMENTS TRANSMITTED BY USNATO ON WASHINGTON'S PROPOSALS FOR MOVING AHEAD
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ON STANDARDIZATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. OUR GENERAL REAC-

TION IS FAVORABLE WITH SOME SPECIFIC RESERVATIONS WHICH WE WILL CITE BELOW. MISSION SUGGESTION ALSO PROVIDES USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE FORWARD ON RATIONALIZATION CONCEPTS. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD NOW BE APPROPRIATE FOR USNATO TO BEGIN INITIAL CONSULTATIONS ALONG LINES INDICATED BELOW WITH KEY ALLIES, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE WITH THE UK AND FRG; AND, BARRING UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS IN THESE DISCUSSIONS, WITH FRANCE IN A SECOND PHASE, PRIOR TO MOVING TO CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER ALLIES. USNATO SHOULD ALSO INFORM SYG OF US THINKING AND APPRISE HIM OF GENERAL RESULTS OF US CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY ALLIES. OUR TENTATIVE VIEW IS THAT OUR FORMAL PROPOSAL FOR A STANDARDIZATION STEERING COMMITTEE SHOULD BE SURFACED IN THE NAC BY MID-SEPTEMBER.

2. IN CONSULTING WITH UK AND FRG, USNATO SHOULD DRAW ON PARAS 6A THROUGH 6H OF STATE 176498 IN ORDER TO GIVE UK AND FRG AN APPRECIATION OF THE KINDS OF BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH YOU SHOULD STRESS OUR INTEREST IN USING THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL AND SPECIFICALLY CITE OUR REASONING, I.E. WE WISH TO GIVE FRANCE EVERY REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN WORK ON NATO STANDARDIZATION. YOU SHOULD SOLICIT VIEWS OF UK AND FRG ON (A) GENERAL CONCEPT AND MODALITIES OF OBTAINING COUNCIL AGREEMENT ON STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES GOVERNING NATO STANDARDIZATION; (B) SUBSTANCE OF PRINCIPLES, AS LAID OUT REF (B); AND (C) ON MECHANISMS FOR ENCOURAGING MAXIMUM FEASIBLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION.

3. USNATO SHOULD ALSO EXPLORE WITH UK AND FRG CONCEPT OF ANNUAL REVIEW OF MAJOR FORCE PLANS FOR PURPOSE OF PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING STANDARDIZATION. FOR THIS PURPOSE MISSION MAY DRAW ON SUGGESTIONS OUTLINED IN USNATO 4223, PARAS 3C AND 3D, STRESSING THAT THESE ARE PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON WHICH WE WOULD WELCOME ALLIED VIEWS. YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IN PROPOSING THIS REVIEW WE WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT FRANCE COULD FIND A WAY TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THIS ENTERPRISE AND THAT WE ARE OPEN-MINDED ABOUT WAYS IN WHICH REVIEW COULD PROCEED.

4. WITH BOTH UK AND FRG YOU SHOULD STRESS OUR INTEREST IN DEALING WITH EUROPEAN ALLIES ON A BASIS WHICH WOULD PRO-

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MOTE COMMON EUROPEAN APPROACH TO STANDARDIZATION, AND FACILITATE HARMONIZATION OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. YOU SHOULD SEEK FRG AND UK VIEWS ON HOW BEST TO ORGANIZE EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD, NOTING THAT US EXPECTS ALLIES TO TAKE INITIATIVE ON THIS MATTER. AT THE SAME TIME, MISSION SHOULD ENSURE THAT BOTH FRG AND UK UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THAT WE ARE FULLY COGNIZANT OF IMPORTANT WORK NOW PROCEEDING IN EUROGROUP AND THAT WE WISH TO PROCEED IN NATO IN A WAY

THAT COMPLEMENTS, NOT COMPROMISES, EUROPEAN COOPERATION
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ALLIANCE.

5. FRENCH SHOULD BE KEPT INFORMED OF US OBJECTIVES IN
STANDARDIZATION AND AS APPROPRIATE OF US CONVERSATIONS
WITH UK AND FRG. FRENCH VIEWS SHOULD BE SOLICITED ON HOW
THEY CAN BEST ASSOCIATE WITH ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES ON THIS
MATTER. SPECIFICALLY YOU SHOULD SEEK FRENCH VIEWS RE-
GARDING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS OF
PRINCIPLES OF STANDARDIZATION. WE RECOGNIZE POLITICAL
PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM HAVING FRENCH MILITARY SYSTEMS
PLACED IN COMPETITION WITH WEAPON SYSTEMS OF OTHER NATO
ALLIES, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT PROBLEM MUST BE DEALT WITH.
YOU SHOULD POINT OUT TO FRENCH AND OTHERS THAT US WOULD
WELCOME VIEWS ON METHODS BY WHICH EUROPEANS MIGHT
DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH
STANDARDIZATION ON TRANSATLANTIC BASIS.

6. WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS MADE IN REF (A),
WE WOULD WISH TO SEE MORE EMPHASIS ON ROLE OF NATO
AMBASSADORS OPERATING IN NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IN ORDER
TO LAY STRESS ON THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF STANDARDIZA-
TION. WE SHOULD ALSO SEEK TO KEEP DUPLICATION OF EFFORT
BETWEEN NAC AND DPC TO A MINIMUM, RECOGNIZING THAT SOME
DUPLICATION IS PROBABLY INEVITABLE.

7. GENERAL WORK PROGRAM PROPOSED BY USNATO IS ACCEPTABLE,
AS ARE SPECIFIC TARGET DATES IDENTIFIED OVER THE NEXT YEAR
ALTHOUGH WE WILL WISH TO REVIEW PROGRAM IN MORE DETAIL.
REVIEW PROCEDURES SUGGESTED IN REF (A), PARAS 3C AND 3D,
APPEAR TO MEET THE NEED IDENTIFIED IN REF (B), FOR SOME
KIND OF ANNUAL REVIEW. THE FIRST STEP IN THIS DIRECTION
SEEMS TO BE IN TRAIN, IN FORM OF EWG CONSIDERATION OF
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DIRECTION AND COVERAGE OF 1976 SPRING REVIEW, AS A CENTRAL
VEHICLE FOR DEVELOPING AND MONITORING DEFENSE COOPERATION
IN NATO. SPRING REVIEW AS ENVISAGED BY MISSION WOULD BE A
MAJOR COMPLEMENT TO CURRENT DPC DEFENSE PLANNING ACTIVI-
TIES. WE ASSUME THAT "GOAL" OF NMA-DEVELOPED FORCE PRO-
POSALS REFLECTING COOPERATIVE OBJECTIVES (PARA 3C(2), REF
(A)) REFERS TO EFFORT TO HAVE SUCH GOALS BECOME A PART OF
REGULAR NATO FORCE GOALS PROCEDURES RATHER THAN INCORPORA-
TION INTO SPRING REVIEW ITSELF. MISSION IS AUTHORIZED TO
BEGIN CONSULTATIONS ON BASIS OF THESE CONCEPTS. WE
WOULD, OF COURSE, WISH TO REVIEW SPECIFICS OF THIS PRO-
POSAL IN LIGHT OF ALLIED REACTIONS. WE AGREE WITH MISSION
THAT NEED FOR REINFORCED NAC MEETING IN APRIL CANNOT BE
DETERMINED AT THIS TIME.

8. ON STEERING COMMITTEE, WE APPRECIATE THAT MISSION THOUGHTS PARALLEL OUR OWN. HOWEVER, WE WOULD WISH FULL REPRESENTATION FROM DELEGATIONS IN FORM OF SENIOR OFFICIALS SO THAT NATIONAL ELEMENTS JOIN THE EFFORT FROM THE START. AD-70 PATTERN OF EWG DELIBERATIONS AND MONTHLY REPORTS BY ITS CHAIRMAN, DEPSEC GEN, TO COUNCIL MIGHT BE MORE EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE WOULD STILL SEE CHAIRMAN, MAS AND ASST SEC GEN AS PARTICIPATING. OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNCIL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN THE SUBSTANTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDIZATION PRINCIPLES AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS. THUS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE COUNCIL NOT BECOME CAPTIVE OF WHATEVER STAFF IS PUT TOGETHER TO SUPPORT IT, WHICH IS A RISK IF THE STEERING COMMITTEE BECOMES TOO HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON SECRETARIAT. MISSION IDEA FOR A "CLEARING HOUSE" MAY PROVE TO BE A VALUABLE INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, WE WOULD PREFER TO DEFER DECISION FOR THE MOMENT.

9. WITH REGARD TO EUROGROUP, WE WILL BE PREPARED FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS TO BE CONDUCTED BY MISSION IN FIRST INSTANCE IN EARLY FALL. IT IS IMPORTANT TO LAY THE GROUND WORK FOR A SUITABLE EXCHANGE WITH THE EUROGROUP AT THE FALL MINISTERIAL DPC MEETING. THE DATA COLLECTED BY EUROGROUP ON EUROPEAN DEFENSE EQUIPMENT AND SCHEDULE FOR REPLACEMENT (PARA 5E OF REFTL) WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO US. MISSION SHOULD EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING WHATEVER INFORMATION IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, TO REST THE US-EUROPEAN DISCUSSIONS COMPLETELY ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE EUROGROUP AT THIS STAGE MIGHT WELL TEND TO EXCLUDE FRANCE FROM THE FULL PARTICIPATION WE DESIRE. IF FRANCE PROVES UNCOOPERATIVE, QUITE CLEARLY EUROGROUP WILL BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT FOR US-EUROPEAN DISCUSSIONS ON STANDARDIZATION WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ALLIANCE, BUT WE DO NOT WISH TO FORMALIZE DISCUSSIONS AT THIS EARLY STAGE IN A WAY WHICH WOULD CLEARLY PRECLUDE FRENCH COOPERATION. WE SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR AT THIS TIME THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EUROGROUP ARE ENVISIONED AS ONLY ONE ARENA IN WHICH WE CAN WORK TOWARD STANDARDIZATION

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10. FOR BONN AND LONDON: EMBASSIES SHOULD NOTE AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN FOREIGN OFFICES THAT WE ARE MAKING APPROACH ON STANDARDIZATION TO THEIR MISSIONS IN NATO, THAT WE WILL BE CONSULTING ALSO IN CAPITALS ON THIS SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH WE EXPECT TO KEEP FOCUS OF ACTION IN BRUSSELS. EMBASSIES LONDON AND BONN SHOULD EXPRESS HOPE THAT THE UK AND FRG WILL SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS IN BRUSSELS ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER. ROBINSON

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